Amendments of the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified patent application:

Listing of Claims

1-36. (canceled)

37. (previously presented) Wetting apparatus, for wetting a hydrophilic urinary catheter prior to use, comprising:

a wetting receptacle which defines a wetting fluid receiving space, said wetting fluid receiving space forming an elongate pocket having a volume therein;

a urinary catheter arranged in said wetting receptacle, said urinary catheter having an insertable length and having a hydrophilic outer surface on at least said insertable length; wherein:

said elongate pocket accommodates said at least said insertable length of said catheter; said wetting apparatus further comprising:

a wetting fluid container containing a wetting fluid and having a discharge portion that opens upon application of a predetermined condition to said wetting fluid container to enable said wetting fluid to be discharged from said wetting fluid container; wherein:

said wetting fluid container is integrated with said wetting receptacle;

at least said discharge portion of said wetting fluid container is disposed within said wetting receptacle;

said discharge portion of said wetting fluid container is in fluid communication with said wetting fluid receiving space; and

application of said predetermined condition to said wetting fluid container causes said wetting fluid to be

PAGE 6/22 * RCVD AT 12/5/2005 5:19:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:2125969325 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-18

discharged through said discharge opening into said wetting fluid receiving space and, thereby, to wet at least said insertable length of said hydrophilic urinary catheter.

38. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said wetting fluid container contains sufficient wetting fluid to fill said elongate pocket to a level for wetting said at least said insertable length of said hydrophilic urinary catheter.

39. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said wetting receptacle is a urine collection bag, and said elongate pocket forms a forward portion thereof.

40. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said urine collection bag further comprises a urine collection chamber located at a rear portion of said elongate pocket, said urine collection chamber having a volume greater than said volume of said elongate pocket.

41. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 40, wherein:

said elongate pocket of said urine collection bag presents an open rear end and a weakened closed forward end which is removable upon application of a predetermined pressure thereto thereby to enable a portion of said hydrophilic urinary catheter comprising at least said insertable length thereof to be projected through a forward end of said elongate pocket after wetting thereof for insertion into the urethra of a patient: and

said urine collection chamber has a forward end which is in fluid communication with said open rear end of said elongate pocket and is adapted in use to collect urine transported rearwardly through said hydrophilic urinary

PAGE 7/22 * RCVD AT 12/5/2005 5:19:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:2125969325 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-18

catheter after insertion thereof into the urethra of said patient.

42. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said wetting fluid container is made of aluminum foil, poly(vinylidene chloride) or a metallized film.

43. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 42, wherein said metallized film comprises metallized poly(ethylene terephthalate).

44. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said wetting fluid container is fully contained within said wetting receptacle.

45. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 44, wherein said wetting fluid container is permanently fixed to an inner surface of said wetting receptacle.

46. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 44, wherein said wetting fluid container is an integrally formed compartment of said wetting receptacle.

47. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 37, wherein:

said wetting receptacle is formed of a flexible material; and

said discharge portion of said wetting fluid container is able to be opened through application of a predetermined force to said wetting fluid container through said flexible material of said wetting receptacle.

48. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said wetting fluid container is

PAGE 8/22 * RCVD AT 12/5/2005 5:19:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:2125969325 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-18

integrated with said wetting receptacle in a releasably secured manner.

49. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 48, wherein:

said wetting receptacle is provided with an inlet which is in fluid communication with said wetting fluid receiving area; and

said wetting fluid container is releasably secured in said inlet of said wetting receptacle by insertion of at least a forward portion thereof in said inlet, said forward portion of said wetting fluid container presenting said discharge portion.

50. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said wetting fluid container is releasably secured in said inlet of said wetting receptacle through a friction fit between said wetting fluid container and said inlet of said wetting receptacle.

51. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 50, wherein said wetting fluid container comprises means for applying said predetermined condition to said discharge portion to open said wetting fluid container.

52. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 51, wherein said forward portion of said wetting fluid container is positioned in said inlet of said wetting receptacle; and

said wetting fluid container comprises a rearward portion which projects from said inlet of said wetting receptacle.

53. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said rearward portion comprises

PAGE 9/22 * RCVD AT 12/5/2005 5:19:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:2125969325 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-18

at least a part of said means for applying said predetermined condition.

54. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 53, wherein said discharge portion comprises an area of weakness in material of said forward portion of said wetting fluid container which on application of a predetermined force thereto opens.

55. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 54, wherein at least a part of said means for applying said predetermined condition comprises a tab at said rearward portion of said wetting fluid container which on application of a predetermined pulling force thereto causes said predetermined force to be applied to an area of weakness in material of said forward portion of said wetting fluid container.

56. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 55, wherein said area of weakness in said material of said forward portion of said wetting fluid container is a tear line which is adapted to be torn on application of said predetermined pulling force to said tab.

57. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 56, wherein said means for applying said predetermined condition further comprises holding means for holding said wetting fluid container against action of said predetermined pulling force applied to said tab.

58. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 57, wherein:

said wetting receptacle comprises a flexible material; and

PAGE 10/22 * RCVD AT 12/5/2005 5:19:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:2125969325 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-18

said holding means is provided on said forward portion to be gripped by a user through said flexible material of said wetting receptacle.

59. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 58, wherein:

said forward portion of said wetting fluid container presents a forward edge;

said tear line extends rearwardly from said forward edge;

said tab is a first tab which extends rearwardly from said forward edge of said forward portion on a first side of said tear line and is of such dimensions as to project from said inlet of said wetting receptacle;

said holding means for holding said wetting fluid container against said action of said pulling force applied to said first tab is a second tab which extends forwardly from said forward edge on a second opposite side of said tear line; and

application of a predetermined rearward pulling force on said first tab relative to said second tab causes said tear line to tear and said wetting fluid to discharge from said wetting fluid container into said wetting fluid receiving area of said wetting receptacle.

60. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said wetting fluid container comprises a sachet.

61. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said wetting fluid is water or a saline solution.

62. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 61, wherein said wetting fluid container

PAGE 11/22 * RCVD AT 12/5/2005 5:19:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:2125969325 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-18

comprises a material which is impermeable to ethylene oxide and water or saline solution.

63. (currently amended) Wetting apparatus for wetting a hydrophilic urinary catheter prior to use, said urinary catheter having an insertable length and having a hydrophilic outer surface on at least said insertable length, said wetting apparatus comprising:

a catheter package comprising a sealed elongated volume that contains said hydrophilic urinary catheter, said sealed elongated volume having at least one chamber that surrounds at least a portion of said insertable length of said hydrophilic urinary catheter; wherein:

said elongated volume is provided with an inlet which is in fluid communication therewith;

said at least one chamber comprises a first chamber containing a wetting fluid container having wetting fluid therein[[,]];

said wetting fluid container is integrated with said elongated volume in a releasably secured manner, being releasably secured in said inlet of said wetting receptacle by insertion of at least a forward portion thereof in said inlet through a friction fit, said forward portion of said wetting fluid container presenting a discharge portion;

said wetting fluid container comprises a rearward portion which projects from said inlet;

said wetting fluid container ~~opening upon application of~~ comprises means for applying a predetermined condition to said discharge portion to open said wetting fluid container to enable said wetting fluid to discharge from said wetting fluid container to wet at least a tip portion of said insertable length of said hydrophilic urinary catheter; and

said first chamber is defined by a restriction in said elongated volume.

PAGE 12/22 * RCVD AT 12/5/2005 5:19:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:2125969325 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-18

64. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 63, wherein said wetting fluid container contains sufficient wetting fluid to fill said elongated volume to a level for wetting said at least said insertable length of said hydrophilic urinary catheter.

65. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 63, wherein said wetting fluid container is made of aluminum foil, poly(vinylidene chloride) or a metallized film.

66. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 65, wherein said metallized film comprises metallized poly(ethylene terephthalate).

67. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 63, wherein said wetting fluid container is fully contained within said first chamber.

68-69. (cancelled)

70. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 63, wherein:

said elongated volume is formed of a flexible material; and

said wetting fluid container has a discharge portion that opens on application of a predetermined force to said wetting fluid container through said flexible material of said elongated volume.

71-75. (cancelled)

76. (currently amended) The wetting apparatus according to claim [[75]] 63, wherein said rearward portion comprises at least a part of said means for applying said predetermined condition.

PAGE 13/22 * RCVD AT 12/5/2005 5:19:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:2125969325 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-18

77. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 76, wherein said discharge portion comprises an area of weakness in material of said forward portion of said wetting fluid container which on application of a predetermined force thereto opens.

78. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 77, wherein at least a part of said means for applying said predetermined condition comprises a tab at said rearward portion of said wetting fluid container which on application of a predetermined pulling force thereto causes said predetermined force to be applied to an area of weakness in material of said forward portion of said wetting fluid container.

79. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 78, wherein said area of weakness in said material of said forward portion of said wetting fluid container is a tear line which is adapted to be torn on application of said predetermined pulling force to said tab.

80. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 79, wherein said means for applying said predetermined condition further comprises holding means for holding said wetting fluid container against action of said predetermined pulling force applied to said tab.

81. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 80, wherein:

said wetting receptacle comprises a flexible material; and

said holding means is provided on said forward portion to be gripped by a user through said flexible material of said wetting receptacle.

PAGE 14/22 * RCVD AT 12/5/2005 5:19:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:2125969325 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-18

82. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 81, wherein:

said forward portion of said wetting fluid container presents a forward edge;

said tear line extends rearwardly from said forward edge;

said tab is a first tab which extends rearwardly from said forward edge of said forward portion on a first side of said tear line and is of such dimensions as to project from said inlet of said elongated volume;

said holding means for holding said wetting fluid container against said action of said pulling force applied to said first tab is a second tab which extends forwardly from said forward edge on a second opposite side of said tear line; and

application of a predetermined rearward pulling force on said first tab relative to said second tab causes said tear line to tear and said wetting fluid to discharge from said wetting fluid container into said elongated volume.

83. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 63, wherein said wetting fluid container comprises a sachet.

84. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 63, wherein said wetting fluid is water or a saline solution.

85. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus according to claim 84, wherein said wetting fluid container comprises a material which is impermeable to ethylene oxide and water or saline solution.

86. (cancelled)

PAGE 15/22 * RCVD AT 12/5/2005 5:19:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:2125969325 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-18

87. (currently amended) A wetting apparatus for wetting a hydrophilic urinary catheter prior to use, said urinary catheter having an insertable length and having a hydrophilic outer surface on at least said insertable length, said wetting apparatus comprising:

a first chamber for receiving at least said insertable length of said hydrophilic urinary catheter therein; and

a second chamber containing a wetting fluid; wherein:

said first chamber is adapted for fluid communication with said second chamber; [[and]]

said first chamber is provided with an inlet which is in fluid communication therewith, said inlet being adapted to receive at least a portion of said second chamber for passage of said wetting fluid into said first chamber;

said second chamber is adapted for fluid communication with said first chamber [[and]], said second chamber having a discharge portion that opens upon application of a predetermined condition thereto to release said wetting fluid; and

said second chamber has at least a portion adapted for insertion into said inlet of said first chamber, said second chamber being releasably secured in said inlet of said first chamber by insertion of at least a forward portion of said second chamber in said inlet, said forward portion of said second chamber presenting said discharge portion having a discharge opening.

88. (currently amended) The wetting apparatus of claim 87 wherein:

~~said second chamber has a discharge opening through which said wetting fluid is released upon application of said predetermined condition;~~

PAGE 16/22 * RCVD AT 12/5/2005 5:19:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:2125969325 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-18

said second chamber is ~~integral~~ integrated with said first chamber in a releasably secured manner; and

at least said discharge opening is disposed within said first chamber.

89. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus of claim 88, wherein said second chamber contains sufficient wetting fluid to fill said first chamber to a level for wetting said at least said insertable length of said hydrophilic urinary catheter.

90. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus of claim 88, wherein said second chamber is made of aluminum foil, poly(vinylidene chloride) or a metallized film.

91. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus of claim 90, wherein said metallized film comprises metallized poly(ethylene terephthalate).

92. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus of claim 88, wherein said second chamber is fully contained within said first chamber.

93-94. (cancelled)

95. (currently amended) The wetting apparatus of claim 88, wherein:

said first chamber is formed of a flexible material; and

said ~~second chamber has~~ discharge ~~portion that~~ opening opens on application of a predetermined force to said second chamber through said flexible material of said first chamber.

96. (currently amended) The wetting apparatus of claim 95, wherein said discharge ~~portion~~ opening comprises an

PAGE 17/22 * RCVD AT 12/5/2005 5:19:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:2125969325 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-18

area of weakness in material of said second chamber which on application of a predetermined force thereto opens.

97-98. (cancelled)

99. (currently amended) The wetting apparatus of claim [[98]] 87, wherein said second chamber contains sufficient wetting fluid to fill said first chamber to a level for wetting said at least said insertable length of said hydrophilic urinary catheter.

100. (currently amended) The wetting apparatus of claim [[98]] 87, wherein said second chamber is made of aluminum foil, poly(vinylidene chloride) or a metallized film.

101. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus of claim 100, wherein said metallized film comprises metallized poly(ethylene terephthalate).

102. (cancelled)

103. (currently amended) The wetting apparatus of claim [[102]] 87, wherein said second chamber is releasably secured in said inlet of said first chamber through a friction fit between said second chamber and said inlet of said first chamber.

104. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus of claim 103, wherein said second chamber comprises means for applying said predetermined condition to said discharge portion to open said second chamber.

105. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus of claim 104, wherein said forward portion of said second chamber is positioned in said inlet of said first chamber; and

said second chamber comprises a rearward portion which projects from said inlet of said first chamber.

PAGE 18/22 * RCVD AT 12/5/2005 5:19:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:2125969325 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-18

106. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus of claim 105, wherein said rearward portion comprises at least a part of said means for applying said predetermined condition.

107. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus of claim 106, wherein said discharge portion comprises an area of weakness in material of said forward portion of said second chamber which on application of a predetermined force thereto opens.

108. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus of claim 107, wherein at least a part of said means for applying said predetermined condition comprises a tab at said rearward portion of said second chamber which on application of a predetermined pulling force thereto causes said predetermined force to be applied to an area of weakness in said material of said forward portion of said second chamber.

109. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus of claim 108, wherein said area of weakness in said material of said forward portion of said second chamber is a tear line which is adapted to be torn on application of said predetermined pulling force to said tab.

110. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus of claim 109, wherein said means for applying said predetermined condition further comprises holding means for holding said second chamber against action of said predetermined pulling force applied to said tab.

111. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus of claim 110, wherein:

said first chamber comprises a flexible material; and

PAGE 19/22 * RCVD AT 12/5/2005 5:19:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:2125969325 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-18

said holding means is provided on said forward portion to be gripped by a user through said flexible material of said first chamber.

112. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus of claim 111, wherein:

said forward portion of said second chamber presents a forward edge;

said tear line extends rearwardly from said forward edge;

said tab is a first tab which extends rearwardly from said forward edge of said forward portion on a first side of said tear line and is of such dimensions as to project from said inlet of said first chamber;

said holding means for holding said second chamber against said action of said pulling force applied to said first tab is a second tab which extends forwardly from said forward edge on a second opposite side of said tear line; and

application of a predetermined rearward pulling force on said first tab relative to said second tab causes said tear line to tear and said wetting fluid to discharge from said second chamber into said first chamber.

113. (currently amended) The wetting apparatus of claim [[98]] 87, wherein said second chamber comprises a sachet.

114. (currently amended) The wetting apparatus of claim [[98]] 87, wherein said wetting fluid is water or a saline solution.

115. (previously presented) The wetting apparatus of claim 114, wherein said second chamber comprises a material which is impermeable to ethylene oxide and water or saline solution.

PAGE 20/22 * RCVD AT 12/5/2005 5:19:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:2125969325 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-18